GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:651
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2003
FOREIGN NEWS AGENCIES IN INDIA
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to review the operations of foreign news agencies with India;

(b) if so, the details and reasons for the same;

(c) the details of the present policy for foreign news agencies; and

(d) the likely changes proposed by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d): Since 1956, the policy regarding news agencies within the country, requires that communication facilities can be granted only where the distribution of news within the country is to be effected through an Indian news agency owned and managed by Indians, which would have full and final authority in the selection of foreign news for distribution and which would also be in a position to supply Indian news, in reasonable volume, to the foreign news agencies with whom they have a working arrangement and that facilities for the transmission from India of multiple-address press messages by wireless will be granted only to Indian news agencies as defined above.

Opinions and suggestions on modification or continuation of the existing policy have been invited by the Government.